

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00
CCO-00 NEA-10 PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00
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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

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FOR S/PRS; DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL; USIA FOR IPS/PE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE), UR

SUBJECT: GROMYKO'S TOAST

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO'S TOAST GIVEN
AT THE LUNCH HE HOSTED FOR SECRETARY VANCE MARCH 28.

FROM PREPARED TEXT:

AS SECRETARY GENERAL BREDZHNEV EMPHASIZED, THE MAIN
POINT IN OUR DISCUSSIONS IS TO GIVE A NEW EMPHASIS, A NEW
IMPETUS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS.
THIS WOULD SERVE THE INTERESTS NOT ONLY OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES
BUT ALSO WOULD CONSTITUTE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE
RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS.

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IN RECENT YEARS THERE WAS FORTUNATELY A TURN FOR THE
BETTER IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, REFLECTING IN SUB-
STANCE AN IMPROVEMENT IN OVERALL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.
THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF MUTUAL RECOGNITION THAT
IN THE NUCLEAR AGE THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO PEACEFUL CO-
EXISTENCE. IT WAS REFLECTED IN THE U.S.-SOVIET DECLARA-
TION OF PRINCIPLES, AND IT WAS LOGICAL THAT RELATIONS BE

GUIDED BY THESE PRINCIPLES, INCLUDING EQUALITY, NON-INTER-FERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MUTUAL BENEFIT. THESE SAME PRINCIPLES WERE ALSO REFLECTED IN THE FINAL ACT OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE. THE SOVIET UNION, TOGETHER WITH ITS ALLIES, ATTACHES SIGNAL IMPORTANCE TO THESE PRINCIPLES.

U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS CAN DEVELOP IN A POSITIVE SENSE ONLY IF THESE PRINCIPLES ARE OBSERVED, AND ON THE CONTRARY, ANY ATTEMPT TO IGNORE--LET ALONE VIOLATE--THEM WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE TO THINK OTHERWISE.

THE CRITICAL DIRECTION IN U.S.-USSR RELATIONS IS TO REMOVE THE THREAT OF WAR AND TO END THE ARMS RACE. THERE IS A RANGE OF QUESTIONS TO BE RESOLVED, ESPECIALLY THE CONCLUSION OF A NEW SALT AGREEMENT. IF WE UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION CORRECTLY, THIS DOES NOT RUN COUNTER TO THE VIEW OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION. LET US, THEREFORE, ACT ACCORDINGLY. SHOULD WE DO SO, THIS WOULD OPEN UP AN AVENUE FOR STILL FURTHER POSITIVE STEPS.

IT IS OF CENTRAL IMPORTANCE THAT WE NOT REJECT WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED BUT THAT WE BUILD ON IT. HERE WE MEAN SPECIFICALLY THE VLADIVOSTOK UNDERSTANDING, WHICH IS AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN STATES REACHED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

WE IN THE SOVIET UNION ARE IN FAVOR OF MOVING IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DIRECTION OF THIS POSITIVE PATH. SIMILARLY, A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH FROM THE U.S. SIDE WILL ALWAYS MEET WITH UNDERSTANDING FROM THE USSR.

THE FOREGOING IS ONE OF THE MAJOR CONCLUSIONS TO BE DRAWN FROM TODAY'S MEETING OF SECRETARY VANCE WITH GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV. IF YOU DREW SUCH A CONCLUSION, YOU WERE CORRECT.

EXTEMPORANEOUS:

A FEW WORDS SHOULD ALSO BE SAID ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SITUATION IN THAT REGION IS STILL HIGHLY DANGEROUS. THERE IS NO PEACE. PERHAPS THERE IS SOMEONE WHO IS PLEASED WITH THIS SITUATION. WE ARE NOT SATISFIED.

IT IS A QUESTION WHY WE CANNOT MEET AT ONE TABLE TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES, THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION OR ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. WE ARE TOLD THAT WE CANNOT MEET

THERE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE'S SYMPATHIES SHOULD PREVENT PARTICIPATION BY THOSE INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT. CAN'T WE DECIDE ON PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF? THE MECHANISM FOR A CONFERENCE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH THE U.S. AND THE USSR AS CO-CHAIRMEN. BUT THE CONFERENCE HAS NOT MET FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THIS SHOULD NOT STOP US. SURELY THE PALESTINIANS COULD NOT IMPOSE ANY SOLUTION ON THE UNITED STATES, THE SOVIET UNION OR ANYONE ELSE. ONLY THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE THEIR FUTURE, TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

AND IF ISRAEL REALLY WANTS A LASTING PEACE, WITH STRICT GUARANTEES FOR ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO AN INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE, IT SHOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY (OF THIS CONFERENCE).

WE WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL AND THAT A MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE SOON.
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THIS WILL BE IN THE INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED.

I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE HEALTH OF SECRETARY VANCE, OF ALL THOSE PRESENT, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Subject: GROMYKO\ S TOAST FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO\ S TOAST GIVEN AT THE LUNCH HE HOSTED FOR SECRETARY VANCE MARCH 2
TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, US, UR, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (GROMYKO, ANDREY ANDREYEVICH)
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